

(WASHINGTON) – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today joined colleagues Russ Carnahan (MO-3) and Jay Inslee (WA-1) in introducing the National Transportation Objectives Act of 2009 - legislation designed to move the nation's transportation policy into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure works on reauthorizing the surface transportation bill this year, this legislation defines a set of objectives and performance targets that would move the national surface transportation system forward in a way that addresses the nation's economic, energy, and environmental challenges.

"Commuting times in Central New Jersey are among the highest in the nation," Holt said.

"Clearly, our current transportation policy is inadequate for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We need a comprehensive, well thought out long-term transportation strategy to address our economic and energy needs."

Today's legislation would establish six National Transportation Objectives: promote energy efficiency and energy security, ensure environmental protection, improve economic competitiveness, increase safety and public health outcomes, improve system conditions and connectivity, and provide equal access to urban and rural communities.

The legislation would link these objectives to 10 National Transportation Performance Targets:

- Reduce vehicular miles traveled by 16 percent in 20 years
- Triple walking, biking, and public transit use in 20 years
- Reduce transportation-generated carbon dioxide level by 40 percent in 20 years
- Reduce delays by 10 percent in 20 years
- Increase rail and intermodal freight transportation by 20 percent in 20 years
- Achieve zero percent population exposure to at-risk levels of air pollution
- Improve public safety and lower congestion cost by reducing traffic crashes by 50 percent
- Increase share of major highways, regional transit fleets and facilities, and bicycling/pedestrian infrastructure in good state of repair condition by 20 percent
- Reduce average household combined housing plus transportation costs by 25 percent, using 2000 as a base year
- Increase by 50 percent the number of essential destinations accessible within 30 minutes by public transportation or 15 minutes by walking, for low-income, senior, and disabled populations

A recent study by the U.S. Census Bureau of the towns in the U.S. with the longest average daily commute time determined that three towns in Holt's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District were in the top ten nationwide. While the average New Jersey resident spends 28.5 minutes on his or her daily commute, residents in Marlboro average 46 minutes on their commute, residents in Manalapan

average 42.7 minutes, and residents in West Windsor spend an average of 42.1 minutes per commute.

The bill has been endorsed by Transportation4America, a coalition of more than 300 national and state organizations, local governments, businesses, and transit agencies that seek to create a national transportation system reflecting national priorities. Among its members are NJ Future, the [Regional Plan Association](#) (NY-CT-NJ), and the [Tri-State Transportation Campaign](#) (NY-CT-NJ).

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